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RAJYA SABHA

Chief Ministers Conference on 21.5.2001 and in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports on 6.7.2001. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, J&K, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat and Assam expressed their inability to adopt the scheme of decentralised procurement due to various reasons such as lack of funds, infrastructure, trained manpower etc. The States of Karnataka, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh felt that the scheme could be adopted after suitable modalities are worked out.

(c) In the meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports held on 6.7.2001, it was clarified that the scheme would not be imposed on any State Government. It was decided that further consultation would be held with the State Governments and sharing of grains under the scheme will be considered with those States which agree to adopt the scheme. The savings would depend upon the difference between the economic cost of FCI and the State Government which adopts the scheme of decentralised procurement of foodgrains.

Corporatisation of Ordnance Factories

1236. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to corporatise 39 Ordnance Factories in the country by restructuring and synergising their activities to ensure their profitability;
- (b) whether this step is being resisted by the employees; and
- (c) if so, Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) Recommendations with regard to corporatisation of Ordnance Factories have been made in the past, but there is no such proposal under consideration of Government at present. Government's position in this regard has been explained to workers' representatives.